



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Butte Trap & Skeet Club

2. Type of Proposed Action: Purchase and install Automatic Trap Machines
Purchase Canterbury Wireless Voice Calls

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The Butte Trap Club, also known as the Butte Trap and Skeet Club, is approximately 5 miles south of city center of Butte, Montana in Silver Bow County, on Gun Club road and occupies approximately 40 acres. The deed of title for transfer of the property on January 1938 is as follows: *...The south one-half (S ½) of the North one-half (N ½) of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼); also the southwest quarter (SW ¼) of the southwest quarter (SW ¼) of the southwest (SW ¼) and the east half (E ½) of the south half (S ½) of the Southwest quarter (SW ¼) of the southwest quarter (SW ¼), all of Section eight (8), Township two (2) north, Range Seven (7) west of the Montana Principal Meridian, containing thirty (30) acres, more or less, excepting the west thirty (30) feet, for use as a public highway..*

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Modernization and expansion of the existing ranges is necessary for the increased number of shooters and shooting events in the Butte area. Additionally, the automatic trap machines will eliminate having a person in the trap house, further improving the safety and efficiency of range operations.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): The objective is to provide increased opportunity to participate in safe organized and efficient operation with increased shooting opportunities.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:



Figure 1 – Butte Trap & Skeet Club Map with surrounding area

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Site is a 40-acre parcel of land located south of Butte, MT as described in Paragraph 3 and Figure 1. The trap club has been on this site since 1938. However, the improvements are limited to a much smaller area within the actual range area.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The range parcel is located on club owned property. Club range has been in existence since at least 1892 and has been on its present site since at least 1938. The surrounding area was rural and over the years the surrounding area has grown into primarily light industrial and commercial properties. However there are a few scattered residences within the local area and a storage facility on the east side of the range. The club properties, shot fall out zones and safety zones are adequate for safe operations of the range.

10. Description of Project:

Purchase 1 new automatic single/double Pat trap and install it in trap house #1, replacing the manual trap. Purchase two sets of Canterbury Wireless Voice Calls.

In Accordance With (IAW) contract agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
N/A	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$ 6,195.00

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

Butte 4-H holds shooting clinics at the club annually as do the Montana State Meatcutters who have a shoot during their annual meeting. In the past the FBI, Montana Power, Ducks Unlimited, and Boy Scouts have used the range for their shooting activities. The club ran 24 teams in their spring 2007 league and new shooters made up about 20% of the league. The club is open for public shooting and encourages other user groups, including Hunter Education, to use the range facilities. Improvements to the range are estimated to increase the range usage for league shoots, registered shoots, and public shooting and for other user organizations.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Tim Cassidy, 4 Bittersweet, Butte, MT 59701, (406) 533-3583

16. Other Pertinent Information: The earliest documented record for the Butte Trap Club (Formerly the Butte Rod & Gun Club, then the Butte Trap & Skeet Club) is 1892. The club moved to its current location in 1938, based on the deed of title for the current property.

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 27, 2007.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to replace manual traps with automatic trap machines and add new wireless voice calls.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active trap and skeet range without new automatic machines and wireless voice calls.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (**A**) nor the no action alternative (**B**) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** improving range safety and efficiency by installing automatic trap machines and wireless voice calls.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to improve range safety and efficiency but to continue with the manual trap machines and no wireless voice calls. Land use would remain the same. Present activities including trap and skeet ranges without the proposed improvements to the safety and efficiency. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Tim Cassidy, 4 Bittersweet, Butte, MT 59701
Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Butte Trap and Skeet Club. The low impact activities proposed, the increased safety and efficiency all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 115-year history of the Butte Trap and Skeet Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

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Date Completed: July 15, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the Montana Standard and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review. Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.